

A PLAN FOR THE
FUTURE OF CAMPING

*Please see in
Camp History
to be
filed*

IN THE
CHICAGO COUNCIL
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Prepared February 1st, 1937

N O T E S

The attached material marked "Plan" is the essence of the plan.

The projects as marked "1937" are to be undertaken this year.

The plan for developing the summer camps as outlined in the memorandum attached was adopted in principle by the Camp Committee in its meeting on February 1st, subject to approval by the Executive Board at its next meeting.

They include the opening of a new camp at Big Blue, an intermediate step between the Wilderness and the Crystal Lake types of camp, as well as limiting the attendance at the Crystal Lake camps to 200 Scouts at a time. In this latter case, the Chief Camp Director has been given leeway to add to this to the extent of twenty-five Scouts per camp if it proves that the camps to be operated have not sufficient space for those attending.

One additional matter is pending ... that of whether a new camp of the Crystal Lake type could be operated on Big Blue in addition to Wilderness, the intermediate camp, and Belnap. The matter is in the hands of the Chief Camp Director for study, and then will be referred back to the Camp Committee.

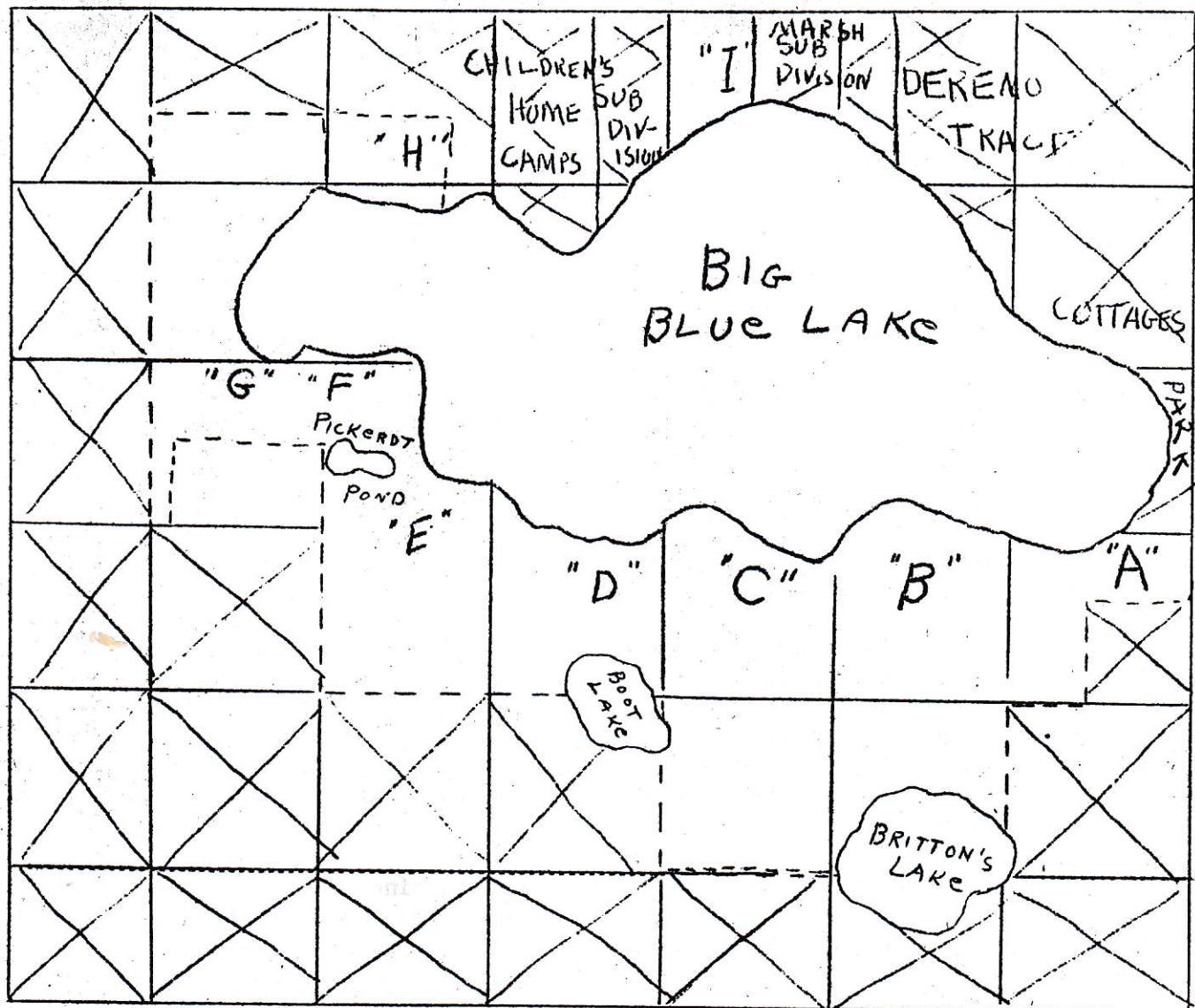
The directors of the camps for 1937 as recommended by the Scout Executive and the Chief Camp Director were approved. Changes have been made in line with the ultimate goals as set by the plan:

Camp Kiwanis	V. L. Alm
Camp West	C. H. Engberg
Camp Dan Beard	A. A. Kirk
Camp Robert Stuart	John Lovitt
Wilderness Camp	Martin Miller
Camp Belnap	Dr. W. H. Benson
(Name unknown) Intermediate Camp	Unknown
Camp Doddridge	C. H. Sawyer

The matter of selection of an Administrative Director for the camps was discussed with the problem referred to the Scout Executive and the Chief Camp Director.

Alfred C. Nichols, Jr.
Chief Camp Director

MAP OF PROPERTIES
OF
CHICAGO COUNCIL, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
ON BIG BLUE LAKE



"A" - Proposed headquarters

"B" - Regular Camp (1937?)

"C" - Intermediate Camp (1937)

"D" - WILDERNESS CAMP (1937)

"E" - WILDERNESS CAMP

"F" - INTERMEDIATE CAMP

"G" - Regular Camp

"H" - Belnap

"I" - Family Camp

X - Property not owned

The first meager handful of boys who donned the khaki shorts and pinned on the fleur de lis of the Boy Scout had an intense desire to go camping, and they went. Since that date in 1910, camping has been an integral part of the programs of Chicago Boy Scout troops.

The camps of those early years consisted of a heterogeneous assortment of tents ... pup tents, wall tents, pyramidal tents ... mostly hand-downs from army cantonments pressed into service so that young America might duplicate the experience of a group of English boys on Brownsea Island which kindled the torch of Scouting adventure for the boyhood of the world.

In 1907 that patron saint of youth, Baden-Powell, gathered about him twenty boys of assorted ages and from varied walks of life, organized them into patrols under their own boy leadership, and took this, the first Boy Scout troop off for a camping expedition.

That first camp utilized principles that remain vital today as they were then. They are the essence and spirit of the Scouting organization.

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First, the boys led boys; second, a man, the Scoutmaster, guided and counselled them, helping each boy to develop in strength of character in preparation for manhood and civic responsibility; third, every precaution was taken to safeguard life and health and to foster the ideal that a Scout be "physically strong"; fourth, manifold adventurous activities steeped in the lore of the pioneer and the Indian and flavored with the romance of the frontiersman's life kept the boys busy and happy, their hands and minds occupied with meeting and solving new and challenging situations and problems; fifth, it was a game played by man and boy.

Self reliance for the individual as well as for the group was established by Baden-Powell as a primary objective ... recognizing that complete self reliance may only be attained by a gradual process which leads from one degree of self leadership to another and higher stage.

Continuity of experience was part of the Scouting plan ... integrating the summer's adventure into the year 'round Scouting experience of troop and individual. The importance of the Scoutmaster's personal leadership to his troop's outdoor experiences was recognized by Baden-Powell, for he himself was the leader of that first troop encampment. He looked on the camp as an experience in living, wherein he might affect the lives of the boys through the problems arising as they lived together in their own camp community.

With Baden-Powell the outdoor program was the Scouting program ... and not to be considered as a small part of the boy's Scouting experience to be enjoyed on rare occasions. Scouting was "outing" and troop and patrol indoor gatherings merely served to anticipate the next day jaunt, or overnight hike, or fortnight encampment.

To return to the Chicago situation of those early years, the Boy Scout idea appealed to the imagination of youth and in ever increasing numbers they flocked to don those awkward high-collar uniform coats, fastened on their canvas leggings, put on those ludicrous Boy Scout hats with their wavy brims, and armed with a Scout stave, hiked away behind the banners of their chosen Scout patrols.

The first two years the camps that were operated were strictly troop camps, the Council leadership being negligible save for distributing Boy Scout Handbooks. The boys of those days read those early manuals with avidity and the trail to camp was tramped by more and more of those youthful Scout pioneers under their Scoutmaster leaders.

In 1912 the Council began to recognize that every troop was not ready to go "on its own" and that the camping experience many of them could give lacked

richness and variety as well as subjecting the campers to possible loss of life or health.

That year forty acres of woodland located on Crystal Lake, near Whitehall, Michigan and belonging to E. B. DeGroot, were purchased by A. Stamford White and presented to the Chicago Council. This was the beginning of Council camping in Chicago. That first camp reflected the previous military experiences of its leadership for its tents were aligned in rows in true army fashion, a mess tent served for commissary purposes. It took years to break down that tradition and to set up the camp with isolated troop units of an informal nature.

The next year the building program was started with the erection of the dining hall, funds for which were raised by the Chicago Board of Trade.

This second year the camp was known as Camp O-Wa-Sippe. Those early years the camp was under the direction of a campmaster, and the attendance consisted entirely of troop groups under the leadership of their own Scoutmasters.

In the years that followed, various experiments and changes were made as part of the natural evolution of the camps. Not wanting to give up entirely the ideal of camping which seemed to evolve around the group preparing its own meals, the troops cooked part of their own meals, the balance being prepared by a chef and served in the mess hall. In later years this feature of partial preparation of meals was dropped and all meals except hike meals were prepared and served for the campers. The camp program was gradually enriched, experts being added in the fields of nature study, handicraft, the hiking and camping arts, aquatic lore, etc.

Scoutmasters varied in their abilities to instruct their own gangs in such skills, so they welcomed these additions to the general camp personnel. Gradually, as the techniques in these specialized fields of leadership were developed it required more and more of the boy's time in camp, pulling him away from such spontaneous items of camp activity as hikes, canoe trips, etc., which the troop had been accustomed to doing as a group.

To further develop these outdoor skills, class groups were organized instead of those more spontaneous, virile experiences which the Scoutmaster previously had given his own gang. On these the boy probably learned to be a bit more self-reliant, even though he was not quite so highly trained in the several camping techniques.

Another change began to take place in the camps ... many leaders began to feel that with all this staff training it was unnecessary for them to attend the camps, so they began to send their Scouts to camp as individuals. Likewise, the staff began to think in terms of the outdoor program of Scouting being conducted directly by them, considering the Scoutmaster as an intruder and an outsider.

In fact, camp directors were known to say as much by direct as well as indirect methods, inviting volunteer leaders not to come to camp ..

Part of the reason for this new thought was that it was much harder for a camp staff to deal with troop groups of varying sizes, and contending with men of all degrees of leadership ability and widely divergent ideas of outdoor program.

So they chose the simpler method ... disregarding troop lines and organizing provisional groups variously termed tribes, villages, Crockett or Boone troops, etc., but which had nothing in common with a Boy Scout troop as found in actual practice in the summer camps of those days or today.

These were arbitrary groupings of sixteen, twenty or thirty-two boys, with youngsters of high promise but little maturity often given the sole responsibility for handling such a group of twelve, thirteen, sixteen year olds for camp stays that sometimes ran as long as ten weeks.

These so-called young "troop leaders", often arrogant with new found responsibility, larded it over such hardy, eccentric adult volunteers who felt that part of a Scoutmaster's responsibility was to come to camp with his gang and have something to say about their discipline and activities. The camps often purposely split up buddies or other troop groups, mixing together boys from a number of different troops.

A further development of this idea of the staff dealing directly with individual campers, resulted in the establishment of Indian villages, pioneer villages, waterfront camps, etc., where the boy went according to his interests and determined by his past experiences. This became a national practice and our so-called Owasippe "Advanced Camp" of 1928 was such a misguided one!

In addition to such gradual departures from the basic principles of troop camping as conceived by Baden-Powell, other changes took place over the years.

The number of Boy Scouts in Chicago was growing rapidly during those first years. Naturally, the number of boys going camping increased ... until Camp Owasippe could no longer accommodate them. Fortunately the wise leaders of Chicago Scouting in those early days did not stop with the purchase of the first forty acres on Crystal Lake. Through the years, they acquired more and more land by purchase and gift until they owned all of Crystal Lake but a short strip. Because of quibbling on price, they failed to secure this strip which since has been built up with a number of cottages.

In 1921, Camps McDonald and James E. West were established on Crystal Lake. The first named camp was designated for an early Chicago Scout Executive and now National Camp Director ... the latter for the man who has guided the destinies of the Boy Scout Movement in the United States since its origin. The simplest method for separating the boys into several camps was moving out the Southwest and Stockyards districts (since consolidated) to one camp, and the South Shore and Calumet Districts (also since consolidated) to the other. These two groups and the North Shore District had the largest numbers of campers at Owasippe. The camp system became The Owasippe Scout Camps, the pioneer camp becoming Camp Dan Beard, named after that present day symbol of pioneer life and activity, Uncle Dan.

Owasippe was not the only camp experience being offered to Chicago Boy Scouts, however.

The districts were operated separately, each as a separate autonomy, and looking to the central organization only for financial support. The diversity of practice in many items of program, camping among others, was limited only by the number of existing districts ... and standards were likewise quite varied.

Some of the districts had set up their own camps on Lake Michigan near Chicago. In 1912 Camp Keesus was started at Grand Haven for South Shore Scouts; Northwest had Camp Checaugau at Palatine from 1919 on; Camp Waugansu for some unknown group; Camp Yotanka at Cedar Lake, Indiana, served the Stock Yards and Calumet District boys; Camp Ken Jockey at Diamond Lake, Illinois operated at least in 1920; Camp Wabash in 1925 began to serve Negro Scouts; etc.

Dangerous sanitary and health conditions arising partly from polluted streams and lakes; lack of privacy from picnickers and trespassers; together with the superior facilities of the Owasippe country, forced the gradual abandonment of these

camps, and one by one they were integrated into the Owasippe system.

1925 saw the necessity for further extension of the Owasippe system and the names of William Scudder, Camp Committee Chairman, Alfred Stern, Howard Gillette, R. Douglas Stuart, George Stephenson, Tod Shearer and others will go down into history for their vision, energy, and money which secured 700 acres on Big Blue Lake to add to the 350 acres then held on Crystal Lake.

In that year a "pioneer camp" was started on Big Blue with emphasis placed on cooking, hiking, etc., in the program. It became Camp Blackhawk, operated on the same general principles as the Crystal Lake Camps. In 1926, Camp Cheoaugau took its place on Big Blue, carrying on the traditions of seven years.

The Negro Scouts broke away from the Y.M.C.A. Camp Wabash in 1926, and thereafter for years they were continually traveling back and forth from place to place like the tribes of ancient Israel, as authority dictated their removal from Big Blue to Lakes O-jib-way and O-wat-isce, and then back again to Big Blue's lovely Hiawatha Beach, where they have since remained.

In addition to differing from the fundamental principles of troop operation, the several camps of Owasippe differed from each other in many phases of administration program. The history of the camps includes many fine accomplishments but likewise it includes its share of jealousies and disagreements, bickerings and quarrels that were the outcome of poorly conducted inter-camp competitions and unofficial raids, a lack of inter-camp tolerance and understanding, etc. Despite it all, the camps grew and grew as the Scout population of Chicago increased. Here is the known Owasippe record:

1918	One Camp	753 Boys	1225 Weeks
1919	" "	775	?
1920	" "	609	1443
1921	" "	951	1067
1922	Three":	1055	2899
1923	" "	1258	3571
1924	" "	1690	4606
1925	Four "	2397	6267
1926	Six "	2550	7232
1927	" "	2340	5911
1928	Seven "	2811	7546
1929	Six "	2540	6054
1930	" "	2947	6825
1931	" "	2894	6538
1932	" "	1687	3146
1933	Five "	1327	2840
1934	" "	1670	3833
1935	" "	1822	4210
1936	" "	2131	5348

(No attempt has been made to add the record of the separate camps of the early years, nor the attendance at Camp Kiwanis during the past six years).

Owasippe was costing the Council considerable money, for in addition to the budgets provided, there were always camp deficits to be met after the season, more than likely being added to the Council's mounting indebtedness.

In 1927, E. Urner Goodman, Scout Executive of Philadelphia became the of Chicago, faced with the challenge to coordinate the program and activities of the several districts of Chicago along lines that were basically sound.

In connection with camping, Philadelphia had largely followed out Baden-Powell's original concept of troop camping. In addition to his other tasks, Mr. Goodman endeavored to change the Owasippe system over to troop-centered camping. A small start was made in 1928, but lacking adequate leadership trained in this method of camp operation, the experience was largely unsatisfactory. Spurred on by the promise of troop camping, 1928 saw the attendance at Owasippe jump forward sharply. Inasmuch as the experience given was not as promised, the reaction was decidedly unfavorable. Another factor complicated the camp situation in 1928 ... a conflict of camp authority, plus money troubles. \$50,000 was expended in 1928 for Owasippe including developments, maintenance and operation, the last costing \$11,000 over and above the income from boys' fees. This resulted in a change in leadership which brought in the present camp administration, schooled in the "troop camping" method as Scout, volunteer leader, camp committee member and camp director.

Three things have been effected beginning in 1929 ... First, a troop camping plan has been installed; second, expenses have been cut and income increased so that operation is a profit, deficits no longer happen, and the total budget allocated is reduced by two-thirds since 1928; third, program objectives and administrative methods have been determined by the camp director group, with increasing effectiveness and marked progress through the years.

Depression struck a year after the start of this camp regime. It became necessary to retrench in the face of shrinking attendance and income, and certain camps had to be discontinued. Those with the smallest attendance and further from the central control went first ... Blackhawk was combined with Checaugau in 1932 and the next year both were discontinued and have remained closed. The Crystal Lake camps were all operated, and a less expensive type of camp at Big Blue known as the Wilderness Troop Camp was established in 1933. Permit me to return to the discussion of this camp and its successes and shortcomings later in this report.

In closing these two camps, the Council was subjected not only to the natural shrinkage of campers due to the poor economic conditions, but sustained a loss of morale on the part of the districts affected and this contributed an additional loss in camping attendance. Camps are built around that othercal thing called "camp spirit" which is nothing more than camp traditions and ideals purposely fostered and harnessed to help effect the objectives of Scouting in the conduct of boys while in camp. Leaders, even more than boys, took to heart the loss of their own district camp, and it affected the boys even after that generation of campers had grown up and passed along.

The sharpest loss of 1931's depression was staved off by the gift of \$10,000 for camp scholarships from the Chicago Tribune. But it simply meant that the next year a double dose had to be taken.

Another man with an idea, or rather two men, now stepped into the Chicago camping picture and carved their names on the totem pole of fame. They are J. D. (Daddy) Hickman, and Harvey G. Ellerd. These two men insisted that under the emergency conditions, the Stock Yard's District Scouts could not get the advantages of camping at Owasippe because of the cost factor. They stated that the money for any camping trip would have to be provided by someone, and they set out to get it, and did!

The result was that in 1931 Camp Kiwanis (of which I shall speak further later on), was established as a summer camp for the boys from the old South Central (Stock Yards) District.

The Camp Committee had been sympathetic, but in 1932 awoke to the realization that Owasippe could never hope to provide a camp experience for a certain portion of the Chicago Scout population unless their camp fees were

subsidized in full or part. The continuing economic conditions merely added to the number of such boys.

That started something which I hope will always be continued as part of the camping budget ... camp scholarships for less-chance boys. Annually since that first year, 750 to 1,000 boys have received all or part of their Camp Kiwanis fees from this Council fund of \$1500.00

In 1935, Camp Kiwanis became full and overflowing. In 1936, Camp Doddridge at Libertyville fell into our laps as a gift from heaven, Colonel Blair and the Katharine Kreigh Budd Memorial Home for Children. Its proposed use was not only for weekend use, but also to meet the need for more short-period camping (five day or one week), for Chicago troops, given at a nominal fee. The result is its proposed operation in 1937.

Let's look at our 1936 camp attendance figures ...

14% of Scout population were at Owasippe, staying 43,446 days
9% at Kiwanis, staying 8,330 days
7% in Lone Troop Camps, staying 15,134 days.

That's a total of 30%, and not by any manner of means an adequate job. 199 troops had not a single boy in a summer camp. Nevertheless it is a step forward over 1930 when only 20% of our Scouts were in any camp. In 1937 reviving economic conditions should bring back a flood of campers to Owasippe. Owasippe brought the largest percentage of our 1936 gain over 1935. Improved methods of camp promotion built to meet the problems of the weaker non-camping troops (leadership and cost) should mean an increase in camp attendance which will chiefly be met by Camp Doddridge and Camp Kiwanis, for short stays with small cost will be the solution of most of these troop problems.

Camp Doddridge needs tents, toilets and water supply developed in the woods area along the river front for summer use. Apart from that deficiency, it is ready for its 1937 summer job when properly staffed.

1937

The combined facilities of Camp Doddridge and Kiwanis ought to meet the demands for nearby camping for some years to come, augmented as they are by Camp Fort Dearborn for troops desiring to operate inexpensive Lone Troop Camps on Council property (only a caretaker and program director supplied), and Campinland in the Dunes, with the troop providing its own tentage and the Council furnishing only a life guard and caretaker.

May I pause a moment to discuss the entire problem of the camps near Chicago as pertaining to their year 'round use.

Here again the Council's attention has been sadly lacking until recent years. For a long time the only Council camps for year 'round purposes for a city the size of Chicago was a cabin at Dam #1 in the Forest Preserve, a cabin at Fort Dearborn and possibly one or two other isolated spots in the Forest Preserve capable of holding a single troop. Then that beloved friend of Scouting, A. S. Irvine, with the aid of Ransom Kennicott, Forester of the Forest Preserve District and then chairman of the Chicago Camp Committee, enlisted the support of Kiwanis Clubs (notably Woodlawn, Garfield Boulevard and Englewood Clubs). They obtained the present site of Camp Kiwanis from the Forest Preserve and the men of the clubs actually erected the several shacks as well as provided the funds. The Forest Preserve built several cabins, which still remain in use.

All three of these year 'round camps were permitted to run down and the overnight shelters were inadequate in number and nature. About the time of the

induction of Mr. Charles G. Sauers as Forest Preserve Superintendent and the present incumbent in the office of Chicago Camp Director, the Boy Scouts of Chicago were on the verge of being thrown out of the Forest Preserve, bodily and in toto.

The conditions existing were abominable ... inadequate housing, abuse of property and the natural setting ... unsupervised, individual boy attendance, with moral and health conditions that constituted a menace.

Through the years we have gradually overcome the spirit of distrust and antagonism that existed in the Forest Preserve personnel. Today we believe that there exists a spirit of confidence, cooperation and friendliness, thanks to the understanding and tolerance of Mr. Sauers, and Mr. Robert Mann of the Forest Preserve. The broadening vision of the Camp Committee under Mr. William Scudder and continued under Mr. Philip Pock, with the intelligent staff leadership of Harry K. Eby, Roy Alm, and George Mozealous, has seen increased funds provided for the rehabilitation of equipment, the erection of additional tent shelters, improvement of health conditions, the addition of weekend and summer (1937) program directors, improved training and helps for volunteer leadership, etc.

1937

The big present need for the year 'round camps ... a 1937 one ... which we believe the Executive Board, the Camp Committee and Forest Preserve are all ready to tackle is the erection of an adequate number of permanent overnight shelters for inclement weather use and to provide adequate protection for inexperienced campers in which group most of our troops must be classified.

1937

The addition of Doddridge and Campinland as year 'round camps is the biggest single step forward since the purchase of Owasippe, as Mr. Lint has stated in his annual report to the Executive Board.

Another step has been suggested by Harry Eby ... a plan of cooperation with the Chicago Parks for the supervised use of isolated spots in the in-town parks for Cub day-outings and for troop day hikes and test passing. This idea is in the incubator stage at the present writing. In a city the size of Chicago, distance and cost are factors of considerable importance to be reckoned with if our troop outdoor experiences are to be sufficient in number and quality. A second thought worthy of consideration is the lack of consideration being given to the outdoor program of our younger brother, Cubbing, who has acquired phenomenal proportions for such a youngster. The Cubs are 3,000 strong and growing annually, with little intelligent guidance and help from the camping division of the Council's set-up.

1937

To return to Owasippe and its future development, these things seem obvious:

Camping along district lines has less significance than in the earlier years of the Council, due to changes affected during depression days and the starting of such camps as Kiwanis, Doddridge and the Wilderness Troop Camp where troops from all districts are assembled. It is the belief of your Chief Camp Director that the troop gets a lot of value out of contact with groups from other districts. Certain habits and patterns often are formed in isolated communities.

The District Executive is no longer the sole dispenser of the camping experience for his troops. He is unable to give personal attention to all his troops' camping experiences under the present plan of operation, and in only the case of two districts is the executive touching the major portion of his camping troops by his personal direction of an Owasippe camp.

This is not intended to under-estimate the value of the Executive's knowledge of the troop's problems prior to camp attendance and his harnessing the headway gained at camp to make for a better year's program for the troop. But it just can't be done any more with the increasing size of our districts and the number of camps required. When a district gets as large as North Shore (5000 boys), or has so many campers as the South Shore District, it becomes essential to split the Owasippe camp group. Should this be done it again reduces the number of troops reached by the District Executive's personal directorship.

Under the present set-up, the District Executive has a natural pride in getting a goodly attendance at the camp he is directing. Therefore it has been felt that oftentimes adequate attention has not been given to seeing that the troop got the particular camp experience for which it was prepared. The failure of a single troop from South Shore to attend the Wilderness Camp is evidence of the case in point. It is not cited to be critical, but I believe it does point out a weakness. This can be applied to other districts, as, for example, the lack of attention by the Executive of the Douglas Division to his Kiwanis troops, in contrast with weeks of personal service at, and in preparation for Owasippe.

It has become less important from the camp standpoint that the District Executive be the Camp Director for his district's camp experience or necessarily be a camp director or camp staff man, unless by reason of unusual qualifications and training, he is invaluable to the successful operation of the camps.

1937

It is recommended that beginning with 1937, directors be appointed not only from among the District Executives, but likewise from Assistant District Executives or outsiders as deemed wisest in each circumstance.

It is recommended that the District Executives and district camp committee accept the responsibility for the outdoor experiences of all district units, directing them towards such experience for which they are prepared and in cooperation with the camp director, seeing that such experience is productive and that unsatisfactory conditions are checked and their effects minimized.

The emphasis on units continuing to operate during the summer, the necessity for Cub summer activities, the development of the new older boy program, getting headway before October on the fall program, the addition of assistants to relieve the District Executives of certain responsibilities previously accepted personally, are some of the changes that call for a re-analysis of the District Executive's responsibilities and his camp attendance at this time.

Enough for the discussion of the District Executive as Camp Director!

Another weakness of the district method of camping came to light when it was necessary for certain camps to be completely closed during the depression. It affected the morale of a whole district. If the camps had been operated for troops from any district and had been kept small, the closing of one or more would have had less effect on attendance as well as morale.

Less emphasis should be placed on the district as the important division for camping purposes. This should be accomplished not by arbitrary eradication of district lines in our present camps, but by less being said about it, and when camps become full to capacity, insist that overflow go to another camp, with space open. Such new camps as are opened on Big Blue Lake should be available to troops from all districts. Eventually this problem will solve itself.

1937

We have been concerned about the future of Crystal Lake due to the body of water shrinking in its expansion. This question was settled during the summer of

1936 so far as the intelligence of your staff and the judgments of a water engineer, a surveyor and a geologist may be trusted.

At the end of the camp season, the water stood 18 foot deep in fully two-thirds of the lake and while the other third is shallow so that a two foot loss in depth will produce a lot of additional shoreline, nevertheless there seems to be little danger of the lake's drying up in totality for many years. According to known history, these lakes run in cycles, and the return of the waters to their 1929 level is momentarily expected.

There seems to be little need for the complete abandonment of Crystal Lake.

The State has given us little help in determining the degree of pollution in the lake. Certainly it is undesirable to have too many boys bathing in a limited area.

The Dan Beard population at times has hit 400 persons with Camp West topping 350 or 375. True, these figures are above the normal period size, but each year at least one or two periods are filled to that extent. These people bathe in a space not more than 300 yards in length and there is no current in the lake to spread any pollution to the larger content of the lake.

Apart from the angle of pollution, a camp cannot render its most effective contribution to the individual or the troop when dealing with large numbers. Ideally a camp should be a self-governing community with the patrol leaders running the show under their Scoutmasters, and a staff taking the burdensome tasks off the hands of the volunteer leaving him free for guiding his boys in their problems and activities. Program specialists should also augment his deficiencies.

Each member of the staff should know every boy as Tom, Dick, or Harry, not simply being familiar with the names of old timers and stayovers and categorizing the rest by the number worn on the short sleeves.

For 1937 we recommend the limitation of the camps to 200 boys at any one period. Headway has been made over the last eight years in equalizing period sizes, although the last period is still comparatively small. When capacity is reached, troops should select some one of the other available camps. In the future, we recommend 150 boy camps subject to study as to the number below which it is impossible to operate economically.

This will have the following values:

- a. It will cut down the number camping on Crystal Lake.
- b. It will force troops to look ahead to new and more self-reliant experiences.
- c. It will make the present camps more fun for the boys and more effective in the results obtained both for individuals and troops.

It is recommended that we should not abandon Crystal Lake. The plan in mind for the Big Blue Lake development demands that camps not be so close together that the primitive wilderness appeal is destroyed. In fact, the camping plan for Chicago should contemplate the complete ownership of Big Blue Lake. There are four major holdings, the purchase of which would cost considerable money as contrasted with their values in years past, but the securing of which would practically give

us the control of the lake. The few cottages now there or to be built later on single lots owned here and there would not be much of a problem. However, lot selling is proceeding in the subdivision areas and the increasing size of the Blue Lake population together with the possibility that a resort might purchase one or more of the large holdings constitute an ever-present threat to the isolation that is so important for Boy Scout camping.

As to the development of Big Blue, let us consider the development and operation of the Wilderness Troop Camp which came into existence in 1933.

Here troops handle their own commissaries and supposedly do their own cooking as well as operate their programs.

Nationally, during the last ten years, the Boy Scouts have had a change of heart in their camping methods. Now the trend has swung about completely and the ideal towards which we are now told nationally to strive is complete troop self-sufficiency and self-reliance.

At least it is a sign that we are returning to Baden-Powell's original concept of Scouting.

Granted that the ideal may be complete self-sufficiency for the troop, it must be definitely recognized that few troops are now ready or willing to take such a rigorous dose as called for by the operation of a lone troop camp.

Lone Troop Camps on Council territory ... supervised for health and safety, become the next step. Add a minimum of program leadership and coordinate troop progress and you have the next step from the top in such a plan.

This is the basis of our Wilderness Troop Camp operation. The camp has not been as successful in number of troops attending as one might expect, although those who have been there for the most part swear by it and continue to return. 1936 did see an increase in the number of troops attending.

Your Chief Camp Director believes that the reasons why this camp has not met with greater success are three-fold:

- a. Failure of the District Executive to promote this type of camping for the troop that was prepared.
- b. Unwillingness of troop leadership to handle commissary details.
- c. Desire for more program assistance as rendered by experts in the Crystal Lake camps.

Your Chief Camp Director does not share the National Camp Department's belief that cooking is the most important value in the so-called advanced troop camping experience. Personally, he considers cooking of secondary importance to the troop leadership's freedom to plan and carry out their own programs, exercising fullest responsibility for its own group. Actually, few Wilderness troops now have the boys doing the cooking, although all manage their own commissary departments with boys sharing the various duties involved.

With better promotion and a wider concept of district guidance of troop experiences, I believe that Wilderness will be filled up to its 100 boy capacity for every period.

It is now recommended that we establish a new style of camp that will meet the objections of inadequate program leadership and burdensome commissary

details. It should be limited to 100 boys ... have director, commissary steward and chef, aquatic director and assistant, and a combination naturalist and hikemaster. The program men's duties will be to cooperate with troop leadership, getting away from the classroom style of Scoutcraft education. The emphasis should be on the having of actual experience rather than theoretical discussions or hothouse test passing.

A series of these camps should be developed as needed in future years with one of this type operated in 1937 in addition to the Wilderness Troop Camp. The Wilderness Troop Camp to be moved to a new location on Big Blue, Blackhawk being used as the site for this new troop camp because of the existing messhall. PLAN

Stayovers not to be permitted at these camps, but ultimately there should be developed on Big Blue Lake at either end of the lake a camp of the same type as the Crystal Lake Camps (limit 150) where any troop from any district may go and stayovers may remain beyond their troop experience. At present few stayovers go from Wilderness to the Crystal Lake camps, although the type of troops attending are capable of producing large numbers of stayovers. PLAN

If possible, a camp of the Crystal Lake type ought also to be developed in 1937 on Big Blue, but if too much of a chance, such action may have to be delayed until 1938. 1937

Seven camp sites are possible on our property on Big Blue, leaving the old site of Checaugau to serve at the east end of the lake as the control center of the camp system. Here the warehouse and ample storage plant should be erected, new caretaker's home erected, garage for winter storage of trucks, central water and electric plant, headquarters office building, etc. PLAN

To the west would come the first regular camp, then a series of "advanced troop camps" as needed, with the last camp at the far western end of the lake being a camp of the Crystal Lake type with Camp Belnap around the corner in its present location on Hiawatha Beach. PLAN

Facts that should be considered in evaluating the Wilderness Troop Camp are revealed by the following analysis of our 1936 experience:

<u>RATINGS: % and RANKING ()</u>	<u>Board</u>	<u>Stuart</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>Wilderness</u>	<u>Belnap</u>
Teaching 15 years and up	% 21 Ranking (5)	35 (2)	28 (3)	36 (1)	26 (4)
1st Class and over	% 35 Ranking (5)	42 (4)	50 (3)	53 (1)	51 (2)
Three or more seasons	% 11 Ranking (4)	12 (3)	21 (2)	22 (1)	5 (5)
<u>TOTAL RATING</u>	5th	3rd	2nd	1st	4th

It will be noted that Wilderness consistently rates #1. Does it indicate troop strength developed by self reliance?

ANALYSIS ACHIEVEMENTS 1936

SUMMER CAMPS

(The figures are arrived at by dividing total number of periods into number of tests passed. Result is number of tests per period. 100% being one test per scout period.)

SUBJECT	BEARD	STUART	WEST	WILDERNESS	BELNAP	ALL CAMPS
1st & 2nd Class Tests, % based on Tenderfoot and 2nd Class scouts in camp 1936	247.5%	256%	325.3%	435%	25%	281%
Ranking	4	3	2	1	5	
<u>AQUATIC DEPT</u>						
% of Non swimmers taught 1936	100%	761%	91.4%	85.7%	45%	82.3%
1935	91.8%	72%	87%	96%	90%	84%
1934	74.0%	80%	85%	95%	43%	78%
Ranking	1936	1	4	2	3	5
	1935	2	5	4	1	3
	1934	4	3	2	1	5
<u>ADV. AQUATIC</u>						
% of aquatic tests passed, based on popu. 1936	28.2%	43.5%	44.3%	53%	43.6%	39.6%
1935	43%	44%	51%	120%	35%	52%
1934	50%	59%	60%	66%	68%	58%
Ranking	1936	5	4	2	1	3
	1935	4	3	2	1	5
	1934	5	4	3	2	1
<u>HANDICRAFT PRO.</u>						
Merit Badges only 1936	6.5%	6.4%	29.7%		7.7%	13.4%
1935	6%	19%	28%		23%	17%
1934	5%	16%	25%		14%	13%
Ranking	1936	3	4	1	5	2
	1935	4	3	1	-	2
	1934	4	2	1	-	3
<u>HIKING PROGRAM</u>						
Actual Hiking 1936	216.4%	184%	323.2%	-	-	221.9%
Ranking	1936	2	3	1	4	4
Merit Badges						
1936	30.9%	47.3%	48.2%	16.1%	23.1%	38.8%
1935	32%	40%	51%	16%	15%	40%
1934	41%	33%	45%	-	37%	36%
Ranking	1936	3	2	1	5	4
	1935	3	2	1	4	5
	1934	2	4	1	5	3
<u>NATURE PROGRAM</u>						
Merit Badges						
1936	13.8%	15.8%	31.8%	5.2%	9%	19%
1935	12%	12%	39%	-	7%	20%
1934	10%	15%	21%	-	18%	14%
Ranking	1936	3	2	1	5	4
	1935	2	2	1	-	3
	1934	4	3	1	-	2

		BEARD	STUART	WEST	WILDERNESS	BELNAP	ALL CAMPS
<u>Health Education</u>							
<u>Program</u>							
Merit Badges	1936	1.8%	5%	2.3%	.9%	33.3%	3.6%
Ranking		4	2	3	5	1	
<u>Miscellaneous</u>							
Merit Badges	1936	1.3%	4%	5.5%	-	-	3.1%
Ranking		3	2	1	4	4	

In the above program achievements with the exception of the hiking and nature departments, Wilderness likewise rates first in all cases. It is especially gratifying to note that even in the tests under First Class this still holds true.

In the camping, hiking, nature field, the story is not as discouraging as might seem the case, for while tests were not passed, many of the troops had rich experiences in camping and hiking, although their nature programs were limited. The director gave leadership to the hiking program although no staff person gave technical assistance in nature study or the campcraft merit badges.

In connection with the future plan for a series of troop camps from which a troop may choose, it is proposed that no limitation be placed upon the troop attendance except that a brand new troop should go to Crystal Lake for its initial experience. PLAN

Troops change their nature and leadership so swiftly that no plan can be developed except that of district executive guidance helping it select the experience for which it is prepared. Many troops at Wilderness Camp had no right to be there last summer if the previous experience of the campers or their leadership was the sole basis for such a decision. Number and maturity of leadership should be a qualifying factor for advance troop camping experiences, however.

A few additional points in conclusion:

We should stand ready to abandon Camp Fort Dearborn when an acceptable C.C.C. PLAN camp is offered us by the Forest Preserve. At Camp Kiwanis we should endeavor to retain our present location and also take such additional facilities as may be available at the nearby C.C.C. camp, if and when made available. The forthcoming years may prove that we can use an additional camp in the Forest Preserve.

Second, Camp Harrison's location should be changed three or four cabins erected ... a full time caretaker added and a weekend program director furnished. 1937

Third, a cabin or cabins for use by Explorer or Sea Scout groups only should be erected at Campinland by the Council. Ultimately half a dozen cabins for troop overnight use should be erected by the Council at this point. Likewise at Doddridge a cabin or cabins should be reserved for Sea Scout use. 1937

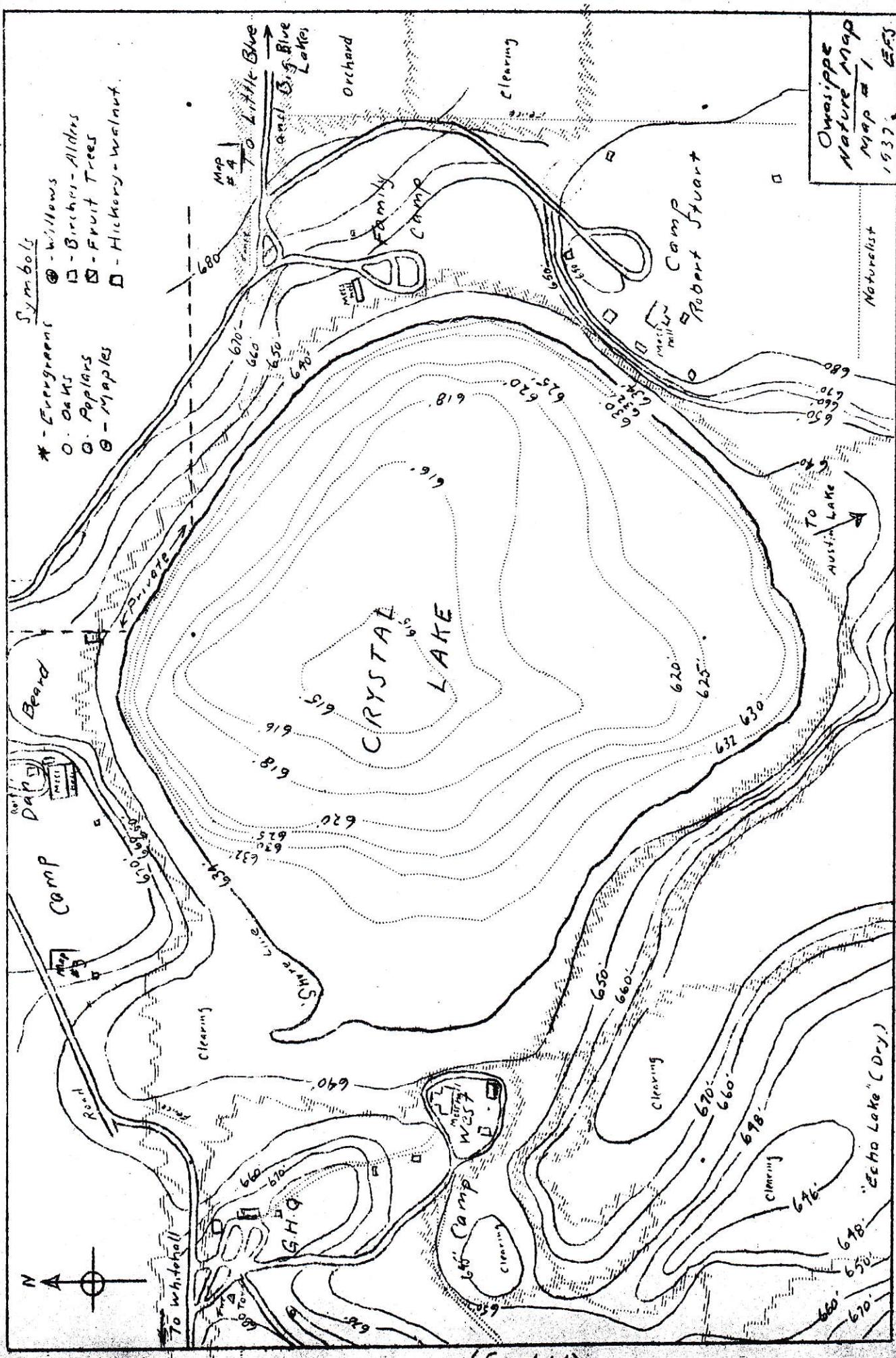
Fourth, the District Executive, or in his absence, the Assistant District Executive, should give leadership to lone troop camp chartering, the issuance of helps, and the supervision and inspection of such camps with the help of the District Camp Committee. Lone Troop Camps now reach 7% of our boys ... it is nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ of our summer camping, but this phase of our operation gets very little of our time and thought though it constitutes the greatest danger point in our operations. PLAN

Fifth, the new troop camp at Big Blue in 1937 to be opened to troops "on invitation only". The psychology of "wanting to get in" to be the lever used for fostering the idea of self-reliant experience for troops. 1937

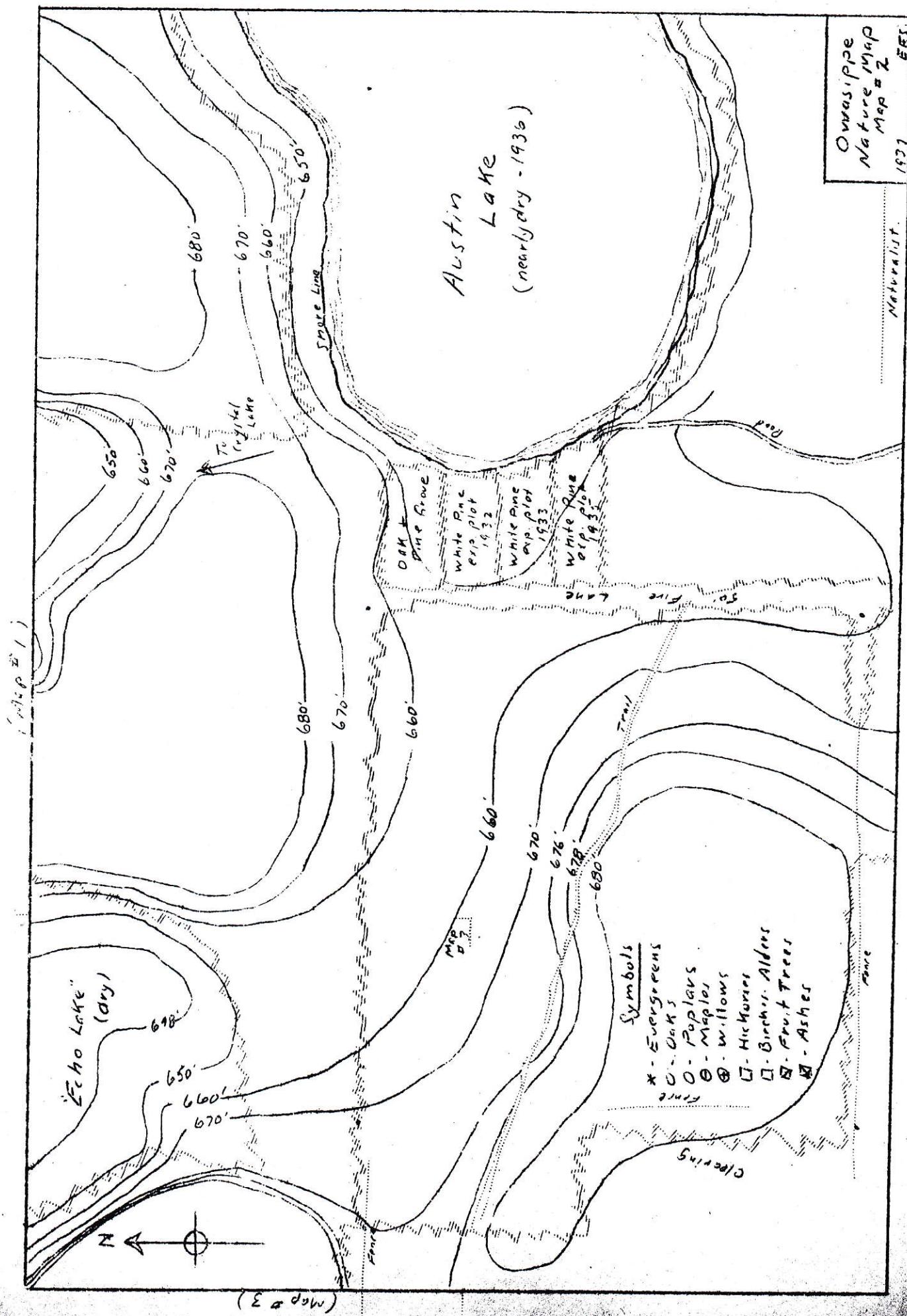
Sixth, with the adoption by this Camp Committee and the Executive Board of a comprehensive plan for the future of camping, we are ready to proceed with construction plans, study of water systems, camp layouts, etc. Decision cannot long be delayed if changes to be effected in 1937. 1937

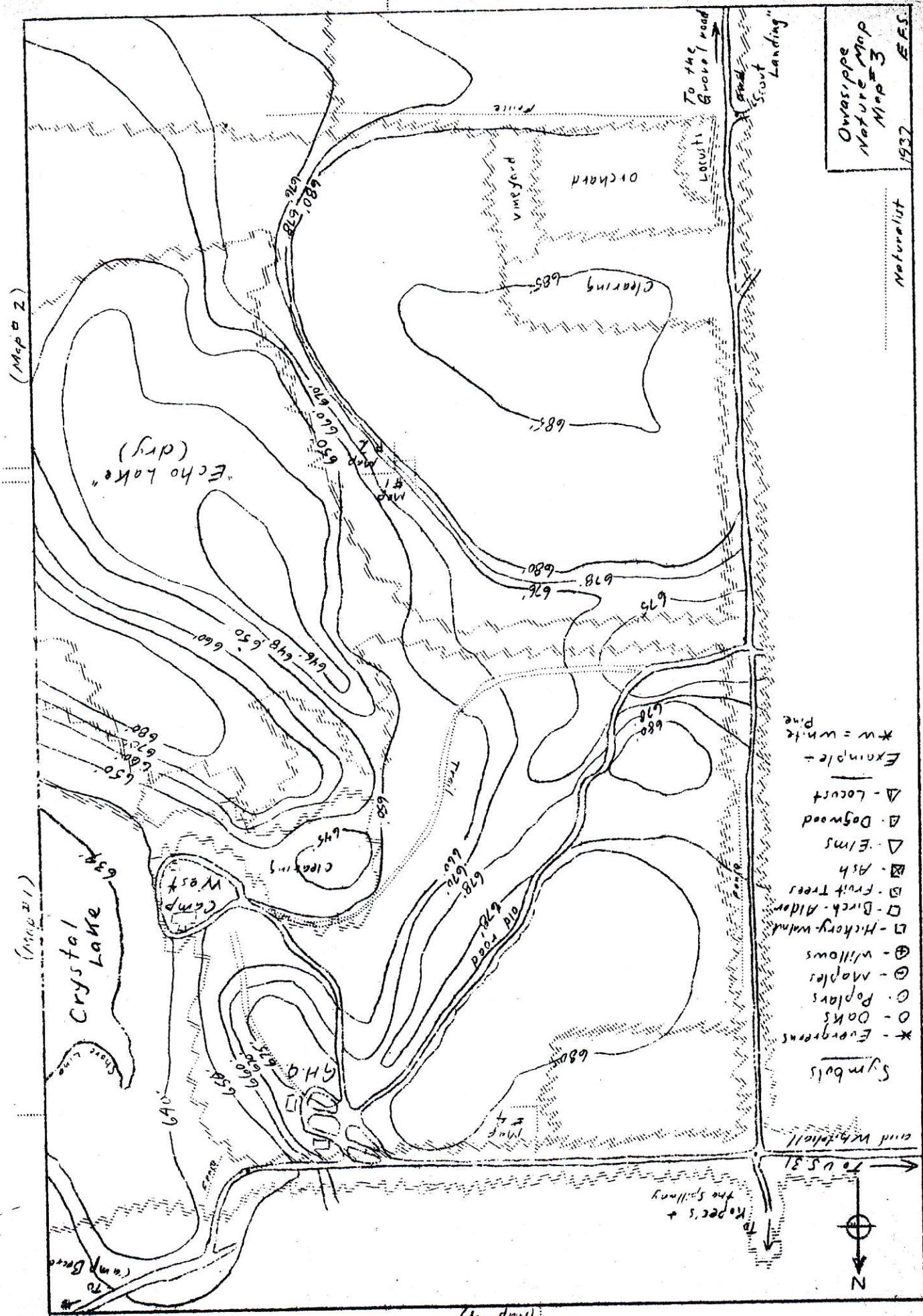
Seventh, Explorer groups encouraged to attend the new camps at Big Blue, and given much greater freedom of action. 1937

Alfred C. Nichols, Jr.
Chief Camp Director



(map 2)





Symbol

- * - Evergreens
- O - Oaks
- O - Poplars
- O - Maples
- O - Willows
- - Hickory - Walnut
- - Birch - Alder
- - Fruit Trees
- - Ash
- △ - Elm
- ▽ - Dogwood
- ▲ - Locust

- Campsite

* W = White Pine

Owasippe
Nature Map
Map of
1937

Naturalist

To US 1
and Whitehill
Fire Tower

(Map #1)

